Keeping in touch

News and notes from
the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches

March 1994

MCC Worships With Gay and Lesbian Africans

Hundreds of lesbian and gay Christians in South Africa expressed interest in joining UFMCC after meeting with Fellowship leaders.

Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson, and Revs. Kittredge Cherry and Sylvanus Maduka made productive contacts with leaders and members of several South African lesbian and gay church groups while they were in the country to represent UFMCC at the World Council of Churches Central Committee meeting in Johannesburg, Jan. 20-28. The UFMCC delegation also organized a meeting that for the first time brought together a black lesbian/gay church being formed in Soweto by Rev. Tsietsi Thandekiso and the Reforming Church, a white lesbian/gay church from Pretoria, pastored by Rev. Andre Muller. Both groups expressed hope for becoming racially integrated now that South Africa is ending apartheid and preparing for its first multi-racial elections on April 28-30. The new South African constitution will not only outlaw racial discrimination, but will also make South Africa the first nation in the world with a constitutional ban on discrimination based on sexual orientation.

"I will never forget our historic meeting with the World Council of Churches, and with the Reforming Church in Pretoria. I understand that Rev. Thandekiso was invited to preach there after our visit," said Rev. Wilson, UFMCC chief ecumenical officer.

"One of my most precious memories is of a prayer meeting we had with Rev. Maduka and the Soweto church. The Holy Spirit was present in a powerful way as we prayed and sang together," she said.

In addition, members of the UFMCC delegation met with lesbian/gay Christian leaders from Blomfontein and Capetown, and with Mr. Simon Nkoli, considered the founder of the lesbian/gay civil rights movement in South Africa.

"The entire Fellowship has benefited because MCC-LA members insisted that their pastor, Rev. Wilson, fulfill her plan to go to South Africa even though a major earthquake damaged the church building on the morning of her departure," said Rev. Elder Troy Perry, UFMCC founder and moderator.

(see Africans, page 4)

Earthquake Destroys MCC-LA Building

A major earthquake damaged MCC Los Angeles, the founding church of UFMCC, so severely on Jan. 17 that it is beyond repair.

The earthquake catapulted the dome onto the street, taking part of the front wall of the sanctuary with it.

No injuries to any MCC members or staff in southern California have been reported, but many of their homes were damaged by the earthquake, which measured 6.8 on the Richter scale.

"The building has collapsed and we are going to have to tear it down, but the people are fine," said Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson, MCC-LA pastor. "They pulled together heroically after the earthquake. People risked a great deal to salvage all the property in the building while there were still aftershocks and tremors."

While they explore whether to rebuild or purchase their next permanent home, the MCC-LA congregation has been worshipping in a television studio sound stage in Culver City. Negotiations are under way so that they can remain there for a year. Approximately 250 people attended the first worship service there after the earthquake, using a church-like set borrowed from the Christmas episode of the popular U.S. television series, "Home Improvement."

MCC-LA had no earthquake insurance because it is not available for a building under construction. Rev. Wilson expressed the church's gratitude for the donations and messages of support that have poured in from all over the world. By mid-February, MCC-LA had recieved close to $20,000 and contributions were still arriving. Checks to MCC-LA may be sent to 5879 Washington Blvd., Culver City, CA 90232.

Less than 24 hours after the earthquake, Rev. Wilson left

(see Earthquake, page 3)



MCC-LA members begin to clean up after the earthquake.
Photo by Ms. Carol Wood

Plan Now For Stonewall 25

UFMCC will sponsor two major events next June in New York City during Stonewall 25 festivities.

The international celebration is being held to mark the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion, a landmark in the modern lesbian/gay rights movement. UFMCC's two major events will be:

Celebrating Stonewall 25: A Generation of Faith, 7:45 p.m. Saturday, June 25, Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall. Seating will be on a first-come, first-served basis. No tickets are required. This worship celebration will feature Rev. Troy D. Perry, found and moderator of UFMCC, as the main speaker.

Hands Around the God-Box, a mass prayer vigil for ending homophobia in the church. Friday afternoon, June 24, at the Inter-Church Center, unofficially known as "the God-Box," 475 Riverside Drive, which houses national headquarters for numerous religious organizations. This event is co-sponsored by UFMCC and the lesbian/gay caucuses of many other Christian denominations. ❐

Judiciary Update

The UFMCC Judiciary Committee met in early December in Wichita, KS, to hear charges that had been filed against Rev. Ken Caton. The three-member committee decided that Rev. Caton was not guilty of all charges filed.

Formal charges of unbecoming conduct have been filed against Rev. Dennis Chappell; a judiciary hearing was scheduled for February. ❐



Ms. Elsa Martinez
Photo by Mr. John Gibson

Elsa Martinez Joins Staff

Ms. Elsa Martinez recently joined the staff of the UFMCC International Headquarters as Marketing/Administrative Assistant.

Her duties include customer service and market research for the Church Services Department and administrative support for the Clerk of the Board of Elders. She will also provide Spanish/English bilingual services for the Moderator, and respond to Spanish-speaking callers.

Ms. Martinez has 13 years' experience with Hughes Aircraft Co. in the areas of management and quality assurance. She earned a bachelor's degree in business management from Pepperdine University, Malibu, CA. She and her spouse, Ms. Cynthia Culp, celebrated their Holy Union at MCC Long Beach, CA in 1992. Ms. Martinez is fully bilingual, having lived in both Argentina and southern California when she was growing up. ❐

Quad Cities MCC Burns

Quad Cities MCC, Rock Island, IL was gutted by fire Jan. 9.

The Fire Department said the fire started in an electrical box and was not caused by arson. The church was under-insured, with only $72,000 worth of insurance on the building, which suffered $130,000 damage, and $30,000 worth of insurance on the contents, whose damage totaled $77,100. There were no injuries.

"However, many good things have been coming out of all of this," reported Rev. Bob Arthur, Mid-Central District Coordinator. "The local community has rallied to their support."

The local clergy network called an emergency meeting to express support and offer help to the church and its pastor, Rev. Roy Lenington. The Unitarian Church has offered the use of their church facilities for as long as needed, free of charge. A local synagogue provided space for a congregational forum featuring two professional therapists to help people process their emotions.

Quad Cities MCC adopted the theme "We Are The Church Alive," and they will be singing this hymn every Sunday until they occupy their new building. ❐

Samaritan Offers Courses

Samaritan College recently announced details about its revised correspondence courses and Orientation to MCC Pastoring 1994.

Courses available after March 31, 1994 are: Understanding the Bible, Parts I and II; History of Christianity, Parts I and II; UFMCC Polity; Our Story Too; From Scripture to Sermon; and Homosexuality and the Scriptures. Courses available after May 31, 1994 are: Pastoral Care, Church Administration/Church Growth, and Christian Education.

Tuition is $85 per credit unit; these courses carry either two or three credits. Anyone may enroll in a Samaritan correspondence course. However, it is assumed that persons who will successfully complete these courses are those with 60 hours of college-level general education.

Orientation to MCC Pastoring will be held July 4-16 on the campus of the University of North Texas in Denton. Orientation is a two-week interdisciplinary educational experience that promotes professional excellence for the liberating, multifaceted ministry of UFMCC. It is the final proficiency area that all candidates must complete before applying for UFMCC clergy credentials. Orientation faculty this year are Revs. Pat Bumgardner, Tom Bohache, Anita Bradshaw, Shelley Hamilton, Jim Mitulski and Mona West.

The non-refundable registration fee of $150 is due by April 1. After May 1, the registration fee rises to $175.

Full tuition ($625) and housing/food ($330) fees are due by June 1. No refunds will be honored after June 1.

For registration information, contact Samaritan, P.O. Box 688, Lewisville, TX 75067; phone (214) 221-7749; fax (214) 221-7345. ❐

Keeping in Touch is a monthly publication of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. We are a church of the lesbian and gay community, open to all. Our mission is to call people to new life through the liberating gospel of Jesus Christ, confront injustice through Christian social action, and create a community of healing and reconciliation.

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Editorial Board:
Rev. Elder Troy D. Perry, Moderator
Mr. Ravi Verma, Director of Administration
Rev. Kittredge Cherry, Editor

Deadline for each issue: 15th of previous month.
Ms. Nancy Fackrell, Typesetting

Rev. Maduka's Nigerian Ministry Honored

"This is the most precious of all!" exclaimed Rev. Sylvanus Maduka of Nigeria, his eyes glowing as he hugged the UFMCC plaque of appreciation to his chest.

A long and difficult journey led to the joyful presentation of the plaque on Jan. 26 by Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson and Rev. Kittredge Cherry in Johannesburg, South Africa, to Rev. Maduka, UFMCC Nigerian Extension Coordinator.

Civil unrest in Nigeria had prevented Rev. Maduka and his wife, Philomena Maduka, from attending 1993 General Conference where the plaque originally was to have been presented in July 1993. In January 1994, Rev. Maduka made a harrowing journey to South Africa, narrowly escaping a traffic accident in which 80 people died near Lagos, Nigeria; overcoming a bureaucratic nightmare of visa problems with the South African government; and finding emergency shelter in the home of a Nigerian embassy employee when a missed plane connection stranded him for a week without cash in Libreville, Gabon.

"I kept going by remembering the Bible verse, 'Be not afraid,'" he said. Revs. Wilson and Cherry also had a dramatic departure, leaving Los Angeles less than 24 hours after a major earthquake destroyed MCC-LA's building.



Rev. Sylvanus Maduka, center, received an honorary plaque, from Revs. Nancy Wilson, left, and Kittredge Cherry in South Africa.

They also presented Rev. Maduka with nearly $5,000 — one year's allotment for the 10 churches in Nigeria, plus additional funds for MCC's legal incorporation there. Still, it was the plaque that Rev. Maduka treasured most. He said he was happy to be honored for his 20 years of ministry in Nigeria, the first and only African nation with MCC.

He was eager to plan more MCCs in Africa, joking about the need for an MCC in Libreville and talking seriously about his contacts in other nations. He charmed the five leaders of a black lesbian and gay church in Soweto, South Africa, who met with the UFMCC delegation to discuss affiliating with the Fellowship. After affirming the importance of their ministry, he invited them to Nigeria to see his ministry, including a medical clinic and a band for revivals.

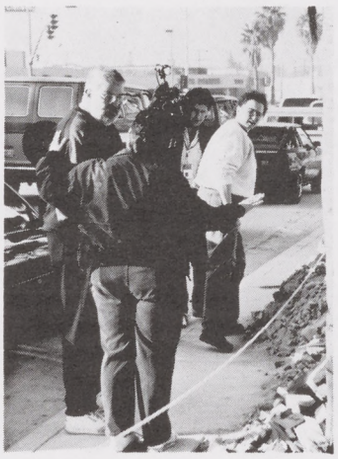
"But you only receive visits from big people from the United States and England," they protested.

Rev. Maduka spoke very firmly: "There is no big man in Christianity. There is no small man, either. We are all equal before God!" Later they prayed and sang together in English, Ibo and Zulu languages, and the Soweto group invited Rev. Maduka to preach at their church.

Rev. Maduka's goal is to build a hospital to meet the overwhelming medical needs of his community. Donations for the hospital may be sent to UFMCC/Nigerian Hospital, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd., #304, Los Angeles, CA 90029. ❐

Earthquake

(continued from page 1)



Rev. Elders Troy Perry, left, and Nancy Wilson survey damage at MCC-LA on the day of the quake.

for South Africa, where she met with local lesbian and gay churches interested in affiliating with UFMCC and attended the World Council of Churches Central Committee meeting. (See article on page 1).

"I felt very supported by my congregation," Rev. Wilson said. "It was hard to be gone, but I knew the church had strong leadership capable of meeting every challenge. A building isn't the church."

The mobile home of Rev. Elder Jeri Ann Harvey was a total loss after the earthquake. Hers was one of 64 mobile homes in a park in Sylmar that burned due to ruptured gas lines. Rev. Harvey and her partner Ms. Jane Kuder were not hurt. Their insurance company is offering to pay only 40 cents for every dollar of damage, and Rev. Harvey had to cancel her ministry engagements for the next few months to work on the rebuilding process. Donations to help Rev. Harvey through this difficult time may be sent to her at 15455-172 Glen Oaks Blvd., Sylmar, CA 91342.

A retaining wall at MCC in the Valley, North Hollywood, collapsed, but the building was not damaged.

Every window broke out of the building next door to the UFMCC International Headquarters, but only one piece of equipment, a fax machine, was broken at the headquarters office. Members of the Fellowship staff appreciated a special offering of $368 from MCC of the Rockies, Denver, CO, given to assist staffers whose homes sustained significant damage.

"We are beginning to recover from the emotional stress and catch up on the workload," said Mr. Ravi Verma, director of administration. "Under the circumstances, the staff is doing a remarkable job." ❐

Africans

(continued from page 1)

Several victories for lesbian and gay human rights occurred at the WCC meeting. An hour of heated debate on homosexuality led to a vote of 44-43 to include the following sentence in one of its reports: "Issues of violence against lesbian women and disabled women should be of special focus."

After the Central Committee voted to hold its next major Assembly in Harare, Zimbabwe in 1998, the UFMCC delegation urged the WCC to take action on reports that police in Harare were harassing gay men and lesbians there. WCC General Secretary Konrad Raiser then issued a statement saying he will investigate the reports. "I shall now seek the necessary assurances from the government of Zimbabwe regarding the entry and safety of all bona fide participants of the Assembly as well as regarding the freedom of the Assembly in setting its agenda and expressing its mind," he said.

Rev. Cherry, ecumenical field director, said the trip was "vital to the human rights of lesbians and gay men around the world." ❐

In Memory



Rev. Larry Uhrig
Photo by Mr. Doug Hinckle

Rev. Larry Uhrig

Rev. Larry J. Uhrig, pastor of MCC Washington, DC for 16 years, died Dec. 27 in his home. He was 48.

MCC-DC had only about 20 members when Rev. Uhrig became its pastor in 1977. Today it has 394 members and almost as many non-members who attend regularly. One of his proudest accomplishments was acquiring the land where the congregation built its own church last year. The ministry center took three years to complete and cost $1.5 million.

Uhrig is the author of two books, *The Two of Us* and *Sex Positive*. He received several mayoral appointments, including to the city's Advisory Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse.

Born in Reading, PA, Rev. Uhrig earned a master's degree in theology from Methodist Theological School of Ohio and was ordained as a Methodist minister. He received UFMCC clergy credentials in 1973 and served MCCs in Michigan and Hawaii before becoming pastor of MCC-DC. He served on several committees at the denominational level, including, at the time of his death, on the Elders' Task Force on Structures and Systems.

He is survived by his partner, Mr. Jim Plankenhorn; his mother, Arlene Uhrig; a sister and a twin brother.

More than 700 people lined up outside the church on New Year's Eve to pay their respects to Rev. Uhrig, and more than 600 people attended his memorial service Jan. 1, with Revs. Candace Shultis and Arlene Ackerman officiating.

Memorial gifts may be made to the MCC-DC Building Fund, 474 Ridge St. NW, Washington, DC 20001.

Mrs. Mary Smith

Mrs. Mary Smith died Dec. 21 after a long illness.

She was the mother of Rev. Elder Freda Smith, pastor of River City MCC, Sacramento, CA.

Funeral services were held Dec. 26 in Sacramento, with Rev. Elders Troy Perry and Nancy Wilson in attendance.

K.I.T.'S BELIEVE IT OR NOT

What UFMCC clergy holds the record for founding the most Metropolitan Community Churches?

Turn to page 6 for the answer. ❐

Top 20 Tithes - Dec. 1993

1.	MCC Washington, Washington, DC	US $	3,200.34
2.	MCC of the Resurrection, Houston, TX		2,809.41
3.	MCC Long Beach, Long Beach, CA		2,509.90
4.	MCC San Francisco, San Francisco, CA		2,257.37
5.	MCC of the Rockies, Denver, CO		1,590.75
6.	St. Luke's MCC, Jacksonville, FL		1,569.03
7.	Church of the Trinity MCC, Sarasota, FL		1,530.89
8.	MCC New Haven, New Haven, CT		1,146.18
9.	Harvest MCC, Denton, TX		1,054.75
10.	Church of Our Savior MCC, Boca Raton, FL		1,031.90
11.	MCC New York, New York City, NY		965.27
12.	Trinity MCC, Arlington, TX		863.14
13.	Joie de Vivre MCC, Baton Rouge, LA		823.29
14.	MCC of Northern Virginia, Falls Church, VA		791.60
15.	MCC Albuquerque, Albuquerque, NM		769.53
16.	First MCC of Atlanta, Atlanta, GA		751.87
17.	Agape' MCC, Ft. Worth, TX		727.35
18.	All God's Children MCC, Minneapolis, MN		626.10
19.	MCC Omaha, Omaha, NE		588.85
20.	Open Door MCC, Boyds, MD		582.10

{These figures reflect the 10 percent of each local church's monthly income that is reported to fellowship headquarters.}

Top 20 Per Capita - Dec. 1993

1.	Vieux Carre' MCC, New Orleans, LA	US $	30.43
2.	Harvest MCC, Denton, TX		29.71
3.	MCC New Haven, New Haven, CT		29.24
4.	MCC Ocean of Life, Costa Mesa, CA		22.75
5.	Good Shepherd Parish MCC, Chicago, IL		21.98
6.	Church With A Vision MCC, Longview, TX		21.87
7.	MCC Long Beach, Long Beach, CA		20.29
8.	New Life MCC, Charlotte, NC		20.16
9.	MCC Augusta, Augusta, GA		19.85
10.	MCC of Northern Virginia, Falls Church, VA		19.69
11.	MCC North Pines, Yelm, WA		19.44
12.	MCC of the Central Coast, Grover Beach, CA		18.87
13.	Family of God MCC, Billings, MT		18.80
14.	MCC Albuquerque, Albuquerque, NM		17.61
15.	MCC in Charlottesville, Charlottesville, NC		17.21
16.	New Horizons MCC, Oklahoma City, OK		17.13
17.	MCC Baltimore, Baltimore, MD		17.02
18.	Eternal Light MCC, Olympia, WA		16.75
19.	MCC New York, New York City, NY		16.31
20.	Trinity MCC, Arlington, TX		16.04

{These figures reflect average individual weekly offerings to the local church.}

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☐ Sharing You and Your Faith (AE0013)	6.50	1.50
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☐ New People (SR0006)	10.00	2.00

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☐ Experiencing for Ourselves the Advent of God-In-Christ (WR0002)	3.00	.50
☐ Christmas Eve Worship (WR0003)	3.00	.50

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☐ Liberty And Love (AT0002)	20.00	2.00
☐ Affirming Our Lives (AT0004)	20.00	2.00

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- ☐ I'm Still Dancing, A Gay Man's Health Experience by Rev. A. Stephen Pieters (BP0047) 8.95

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40.01 to 60.00	5.00
60.01 to 80.00	6.00
80.01 to 100.00	7.00

Around The Fellowship

Praises

Sr. Mario Gutierrez, pastoral leader of **ICM Paz y Alegria** (Peace and Joy MCC), Managua, Nicaragua, shared the story of his church at the annual Latin American Ministry Conference of World Church Extension in late December in Mexico City, Mexico. About 25 people meet weekly in the home of Sr. Gutierrez, a long-time human rights activist who first heard of MCC in 1991 when he met Rev. Tomas Garcia, extension coordinator for Mexico and Central America, at a meeting of the International Lesbian and Gay Association.

Rev. Steve Pieters is on the "short list" for consideration for appointment to the U.S. President's Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS.

Cathedral of Hope MCC of Dallas and its dean, **Dr. Mel White**, will be featured on "Sixty Minutes," one of the most popular television series in the United States. The program is scheduled for broadcast in late March.

Mr. Tom Cunningham, member of **Christ MCC**, Miami, FL, was elected to the City Commission of South Miami on Feb. 9. He is now the highest ranking openly gay official in Dade County.

More than 2,800 people attended the Christmas Eve service of **Sunshine Cathedral MCC**, Ft. Lauderdale, FL held at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts for the third year. At the end of the final closing "Hallelujah Chorus," fireworks exploded over the heads of the congregation, a first even for the theater.

A record 2,300 people attended the **Cathedral of Hope MCC's** Christmas Eve service at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center, Dallas, TX.

Rev. Jose Gonzalez, Latin Ministry Coordinator for **MCC Los Angeles**, CA, led a drive to provide Christmas toys to 300 inner-city youth. It was successful beyond expectations and, in addition to the toys, collected enough cash to buy dozens of warm holiday sweaters.

Three former pastors returned to **MCC Omaha**, NE to celebrate the church's 20th anniversary Jan. 21-23. They are **Revs. Bob Darst, Jan Kross** and **Bob Arthur**. The current pastor is **Rev. Matthew Howard**.

Ms. Susan Eenigenburg, former UFMCC clergy, is editor of the book *Biblical Foundations and a Method for Doing Christian Ethics*, published recently by University Press of America.

MCC Paducah, KY, has begun regular Sunday services at the Ritz Hotel and is publishing a newsletter.

Cable Network News aired a program about memorial services at **MCC San Francisco**, CA on World AIDS Day, Dec. 1, reports **Rev. Jim Mitulski**, pastor. ❐

Prayers

Rev. Paul Evans, pastor of **MCC Topeka**, KS, is mourning the death of his mother on Jan. 17.

Rev. Ed Helms, pastor of **Church of the Trinity MCC**, Sarasota, FL, is mourning the recent death of his father. His lover, Mr. Donnie Jones, is also ill with complications of AIDS.

Rev. Joe Piccari, interim pastor of **Divine Redeemer MCC**, Glendale, CA, is mourning the Dec. 14 death of his mother.

Mr. Bob Elliott, spouse of **Rev. Lee Carlton**, died Jan. 18 after a long struggle with AIDS. His memorial service was held Jan. 20 at Holy Cross MCC, Pensacola, FL.

Good Samaritan MCC, Whittier, CA, experienced phone threats and vandalism in recent months, reports **Rev. Roy Hudson**, minister of evangelism. In addition, the local newspaper published a major article headlined, "Church welcomes gays shut out by other parishes."

Continued prayers are requested for **Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson** following the Dec. 7 death of her father. She says, "I want to thank everyone in the Fellowship for all the support, prayers and cards. It was really appreciated." ❐

Top 20 Tithes - Jan. 1994

1.	MCC Toronto, Ontario, Canada	CAN $	4,723.19
2.	Sunshine Cathedral MCC, Ft. Lauderdale, FL	US$	4,110.84
3.	MCC of the Resurrection, Houston, TX		2,696.86
4.	MCC Long Beach, Long Beach, CA		2,298.96
5.	St. Luke's MCC, Jacksonville, FL		1,687.43
6.	MCC San Francisco, San Francisco, CA		1,550.10
7.	MCC of Greater Kansas City, MO		1,476.48
8.	Church of the Trinity MCC, Sarasota, FL		1,449.94
9.	MCC of the Rockies, Denver, CO		1,231.38
10.	MCC New York, New York City, NY		1,119.94
11.	Church of Our Savior MCC, Boca Raton, FL		1,051.55
12.	First MCC of Atlanta, Atlanta, GA		969.91
13.	Maranatha Fellowship MCC, Houston, TX		822.84
14.	MCC New Haven, New Haven, CT		774.59
15.	Trinity MCC, Arlington, TX		710.29
16.	MCC Albuquerque, Albuquerque, NM		692.75
17.	All God's Children MCC, Minneapolis, MN		690.22
18.	MCC of Greater St. Louis, MO		667.77
19.	Covenant MCC, Birmingham, AL		641.54
20.	MCC of the Palm Beaches, W. Palm Beach, FL		618.70

{These figures reflect the 10 percent of each local church's monthly income that is reported to fellowship headquarters.}

Top 20 Per Capita - Jan. 1994

1.	Maranatha Fellowship MCC, Houston, TX	US $	28.87
2.	Christ Chapel MCC, Santa Ana, CA		28.33
3.	MCC Long Beach, Long Beach, CA		25.63
4.	MCC Ocean of Life, Costa Mesa, CA		22.99
5.	MCC Hickory, Hickory, NC		21.71
6.	MCC of Greater Hayward, San Lorenza, CA		20.50
7.	MCC North Pines, Yelm, WA		19.85
8.	MCC Bridgerland, Logan, UT		19.57
9.	Redeemer MCC of Flint, Flint, MI		18.83
10.	Christ the Liberator MCC, New Brunswick, NJ		18.47
11.	Holy Cross MCC, Pensacola, FL		18.41
12.	MCC New York, New York City, NY		18.12
13.	MCC Hartford, Hartford, CT		18.06
14.	Spirit Song MCC, Little Rock, AR		17.95
15.	Family of God MCC, Billings, MT		17.86
16.	Victory Fellowship MCC, Shreveport, LA		17.58
17.	New Life MCC, Charlotte, NC		17.56
18.	Overlake MCC, Bellevue, WA		17.47
19.	Lamb of God MCC, Anchorage, AK		17.39
20.	MCC of the Blue Ridge, Roakoke, VA		17.35

{These figures reflect average individual weekly offerings to the local church.}

Leadership Conference Speakers Set

U.S. theologian Mary Hunt and Canadian church leader Lois Wilson will be keynote speakers at the UFMCC Leadership Conference Aug. 2-4 in Dallas, TX.

Dr. Mary Hunt is co-founder and co-director of the Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics and Ritual (WATER) in Silver Springs, MD. She is a Roman Catholic in the women-church tradition who lectures and writes on theology and ethics with particular attention to liberation issues. Her most recent book, *Fierce Tenderness: A Feminist Theology of Friendship*, was awarded the Crossroads Women's Studies Prize for 1990.

Rev. Lois Wilson was the first woman to serve as moderator of the United Church of Canada and the first woman to serve as president of the Canadian Council of Churches. She is immediate past president of the World Council of Churches, and chancellor of Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, Ontario. A noted advocate for justice and peace, Rev. Wilson has served with her husband as a pastor in team ministry for 17 years.

The Leadership Conference, titled "Mutuality, Ministry and the New Millenium," will be held entirely at Cathedral of Hope MCC. UFMCC is sponsoring a pre-conference institute on professional clergy ethics Aug. 1. The Cathedral of Hope is planning a church growth program and a music conference preceding the conference.

The Department of People of Colors will hold its biennial conference Aug. 5-7, in Dallas, TX.

Early registration (postmarked no later than May 1) for the Leadership Conference is $120, and $150 thereafter. ❐

ETFSS Guide Due June 1

The 1993 General Conference received a report from the Elders' Task Force on Structures and Systems that proposed study of a new structure based on regional organization to better support local churches. All clergy and delegates were requested to conduct the study guide process that ETFSS developed with their local congregations and return their written responses by June 1, 1994.

The ETFSS urges all clergy and lay delegates to know that restructuring recommendations to the 1995 General Conference in Atlanta, GA will be based on written responses to the study guide. A copy of the study guide was provided to every clergy and lay delegate in their 1993 General Conference packets and additional copies can be requested from the Intern'l Headquarters in Los Angeles, CA. Please send your written response to Rev. Foxworth, c/o MCC Austin, 425 Woodward St., Austin, TX 78704, USA by June 1, 1994. ❐

K.I.T.'S BELIEVE IT OR NOT

Rev. A. Austin Amerine founded nine Metropolitan Community Churches, more than any other UFMCC clergy. All nine are still flourishing. Rev. Amerine retired in February after 25 years in the ministry. ❐

Transitions

Rev. Frank Scott is the new pastor of **MCC Asheville,** NC. Frank returned to the United States recently following several years of ministry in England.

Rev. Andy Sidden has been called to serve as pastor of **Spirit of Life MCC**, Holiday, FL. The church was known as MCC of the Pines before its recent move from Clearwater, FL. Rev. Sidden was associate pastor of **MCC of Tampa**, FL.

Rev. Jim Norwood has become assistant pastor of **Trinity MCC**, Arlington, TX, where he will serve as director of development to raise funds for the construction of a $2 million facility for the church.

Rev. Paul Turner has been called to serve as the new pastor of **All Saints MCC**, Atlanta, GA. He served as an MCC pastor in Toledo, OH since 1986.

Delta Harvest MCC, Stockton, CA, has a new part-time pastor, **Rev. Sean-Patrick MacMillan**, transfer clergy from the Roman Catholic Church. He is working on his Ph.D. at Stanford University in psychology.

Student clergy **Bev Stephenson** has been called to serve as pastor of **MCC Montgomery**, AL.

Rev. Jane Carl and Rev. Susan Dietrick resigned recently as copastors of **MCC Ocean of Life**, Costa Mesa, CA. ❐

Classifieds

TO PLACE YOUR AD

Cost is $15 for the first 25 words or less. Additional words are 70 cents per word. Numbers and abbreviations count as words. All classifieds must be prepaid in U.S. funds. All copy for Keeping in Touch Classified Advertising is subject to the approval of the Editorial Board. Appearance of advertising does not imply, nor does it constitute, endorsement by UFMCC. Mail ads to: Keeping in Touch Classifieds, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd., #304, Los Angeles, CA 90029.

BOOKS & PUBLICATIONS

INVITATION TO FREEDOM, by Rev. Buddy Truluck, a valuable Bible Study series for Gay/Lesbian Christians. $7 from Chi Rho Press, P.O. Box 7864-B, Gaithersburg, MD 20898.

THE FAMILY NEXT DOOR, a national newsletter for lesbian and gay parents includes information about education, health, family planning, social and legal issues, and more. P.O. Box 21580, Oakland, CA 94620.

"Homophobia in the Media and Society". April 1993 MIT panel program. 90 minutes. VHS format only. $29.95. Send check or m.o. to Mark Belson, Barker Media, Room 10-500, MIT, Cambridge, MA 02139.

YOU GOT MARRIED AT THE MARCH? You'll love "March On!" Great Wedding segment. VHS copy $24.95. John Schuster 1521 Alton Road #144, Miami, Florida 33139.

TENNIS MEMORABILIA, posters, cards, stickers, photos, T-shirts, etc. Billie Jean King, Navratilova, Agassi. Free catalog sample: Tennis, P.O. Box 223447, Houston, TX 77227 or (800) 833-6615.

Marsha Stevens' recordings. "Free To Be" (tape only), "The Best is Yet to Come", "I Still Have a Dream" (tape/CD) "In Concert" (video). Tapes-$10, CD's-$15, Videos-$20. Also available - special bookstore prices or order forms. BALM Publishing, P.O. Box 1981, Costa Mesa, CA 92628; (714) 641-8968.

ORGANIZATIONS

Gay & Lesbian Square Dancing. Fun! Friends! Info on clubs in your area or help starting new one. International Association of Gay Square Dance Clubs, P.O. Box 15428, Crystal City, VA 22215-0428. (800) 935-6462.

NEEDED: MCC Women to participate in a research study of lesbian Christian experiences. For a questionnaire, write to: Social Psych Project, P.O. Box 1222, Plaistow, NH 03865-1222.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Emmanual MCC, Spokane, WA is seeking a stable, nuturing Pastor. Contact Pastoral Search Committee, c/o Mr. Jim McGuirk, 511 S. Hemlock St., #6, Spokane, WA 99204.

Golden Gate MCC of San Francisco is looking for a dynamic pastor to fill our pulpit. Confidential replies and resume to GCMCC Pastoral Search, c/o Robert Dedman, 404 Franconia St., San Francisco, CA 94110.

MCC Ocean of Life seeking Full Time Christ centered Pastor for growing and wonderful congregation family. Send inquiries to 1500 Adams #105, Costa Mesa, CA 92626.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Automated Electronic Tax offers 24 hour refund anticipation loans - complete State and Federal 1040 filing for $75 with 24 Hour Refund $99 (818) 769-0570.